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Another Democrat Assails Asia Policy

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WASHINGTON — President Johnson found himself in a little more political trouble over South Viet Nam this week, and once again the trouble came from within his own party.

Sen. Stephen M. Young, D-Ohio, the 73-year-old who beat young Robert Taft last year, is the newest Democrat to leave the President over the South Viet Nam issue.

CLOSE TIES BEFORE

Young, who recently returned from nearly a month in Southeast Asia, in a letter to the President dated Tuesday asked him to cease bombing North Viet Nam for a five-day period "to give the Viet Cong and Hanoi officials an opportunity to agree to join us in bona fide peace negotiations. . . based on the 1954 Geneva accords."

Young, who hitherto has

maintained close ties with the President despite a reputation as a maverick, urged the President to hold out against those urging the bombing of the North Vietnamese port city of Haiphong, Hanoi and the destruction of the North Vietnamese air force.

Young told the President that it is his "personal conclusion" that South Viet Nam "is of no strategic importance to the defense of the United States" and that "the domino theory makes no sense whatever now" and "has been discredited."

Young also told the President that he learned that "the bulk" of the Viet Cong are South Vietnamese and that "this, therefore, is a civil war being waged in South Viet Nam."

The senator also charged that the Central Intelligence Agency maintains "a sort of private army in South Viet Nam and that they had employed South Vietnamese nationals, who in some instances posed as Viet Cong" and committed numerous murders and "outrages against native women."

SEES 'NO NEED'

He said there "is no need for the hundreds of CIA officials now in Viet Nam and Thailand. I consider that our Air Force, Navy, Marine and Army intelligence officers are adequate. I have confidence in them. I lack confidence in the CIA."

Young joins a growing list of Democrats who have taken issue with the President over his escalation of the war.